

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
NEW JERSEY STATE  
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LICENSE OF

KETOYA A. MONERO, R.N.  
License # NR 12609000

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER  
OF DISCIPLINE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a registered professional nurse in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On or about June 13, 2013, a letter of inquiry was issued to respondent by the Board concerning a complaint received from Advanced Care Center at Lakeview, indicating that respondent had been terminated following an incident that occurred on or about March 7, 2013. It was alleged that on that date, respondent provided inadequate

patient care to a 77 year-old patient, C.P., who subsequently died on route to the hospital. The complaint included allegations that patient records which were present on the day of the incident were missing the following week, and replaced with other notes with a timeline of events that differed from the original notes.

3. Respondent's written response to the Board indicated that she had removed the original notes and rewritten the time line of events, and did so upon instructions from her "boss."

4. In testimony under oath before a committee of the Board on November 19, 2013, respondent again maintained that she had rewritten the original notes, and acknowledged that she "got rid of" the original notes. Respondent acknowledged that she did not believe it was appropriate to discard original nurse's notes, but did so based on instructions from the Director of Nursing at the facility, for fear that she would be terminated.

5. In the Board's inquiry of June 13, 2013, respondent was asked to supply documentation of required continuing education for the 2010-2012 renewal period. (Exhibit A) No documentation was provided, and respondent indicated in a writing dated December 1, 2013 that documentation of her continuing education was not in her possession.

6. On respondent's 2012 renewal application, respondent indicated that she would have timely completed her required continuing education for the 2010-2012 renewal period by May 31, 2012.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent's intentional discarding of patient records, particularly in the case of a patient who died, constitutes professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

2. Respondent's failure to document timely completion of her 2010-2012 continuing education requirements constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, subjecting respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (e ) and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

3. Respondent's indication on her 2012 renewal application that she would have completed continuing education requirements for the 2010-2012 renewal period by May 31, 2012 constitutes misrepresentation in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on May 5, 2014, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license for a period of one year, and imposing a reprimand and a \$250 civil penalty. A copy of the Order was served upon respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

The record reflects that the certified mailing of the Provisional Order of Discipline was unclaimed. The regular mailing was not returned. No response has been received

to date. The Board considered this matter, and determined that inasmuch as the mailings had been sent to respondent's address of record with the Board, service had been effected. The Board further determined that as no discrepancies had been raised with respect to the findings and conclusions of the Provisional Order, additional proceedings were not necessary, and the Provisional Order should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014,

ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's New Jersey nursing license is hereby suspended for a period of two years for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e). One year of the suspension, which shall date from fifteen (15) days of the filing of a Final Order of Discipline in this matter, is to be actively served; the remaining year is to be served as a period of probation. Respondent shall not be reinstated until she can demonstrate that she has satisfied all outstanding continuing education requirements, including documentation of 30 contact hours of continuing education, even belatedly submitted, in satisfaction of the 2010-2012 renewal requirement. In addition, respondent shall demonstrate successful completion of a Board-approved course in assessment with a clinical component.

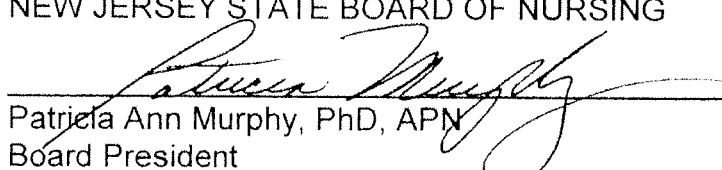
2. A public reprimand is hereby imposed upon respondent for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

3. A civil penalty in the amount of \$250.00 is hereby imposed for the failure to timely complete required continuing education in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check or money order, made payable to the State of New Jersey, and forwarded to the attention of George Hebert, R.N., Executive

Director, Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07101, and shall be forwarded within twenty-one (21) days of the filing of a Final Order of Discipline in this matter.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

  
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President